

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed September 13, 2007 in connection with the above-identified patent application. In that action, claims 1-9, and 15-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,793,979 to Lichtman, et al. (hereinafter "Lichtman") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,016,500 to Waldo, et al. (hereinafter "Waldo"). The Action was made final.

Claims 1, 24, 36 and 40 and their respective dependent claim are in condition for allowance. Each of independent claims 1, 15, 24, 36, 39, and 40 have been amended above to distinguished over the art cited by the Examiner. In addition, independent claims 6, 29, 37, and 41 have been amended as well.

Independent claim 1 recites a method of releasing resources of a user session operating in a software environment and includes a memory management algorithm executed by a garbage collector. The method is executed in a resource deallocation module which detects an impending execution of the automatic memory management algorithm by the garbage collector. The automatic memory management algorithm removes session objects created for the user session. The resource deallocation module accesses a session object of the user session and traverses an object graph and identifies one or more obsolete external resource references of the session object, wherein the one or more obsolete external resource references have not been released by the session object, and releases the one or more obsolete external resource references by a set of rules for the session object, and repeats the accessing, identifying, and releasing from each session object of the

user session. The accessing, identifying, and releasing is performed by resource deallocation module prior to executing the automatic memory management algorithm by the garbage collector. In addition, in claim 1, the resource deallocation module detects an impending execution of the automatic memory management algorithm by the garbage collector and is responsive thereto for accessing, identifying, and releasing the one or more obsolete external resource references prior to the garbage collector executing the automatic memory management algorithm.

In the Office Action, the Examiner cited to Lichtman at column 43, lines 11-14 in support of her position that Lichtman shows "detecting an impending execution of the automatic memory management algorithm." However, on page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner states in the record that "Lichtman does not disclose wherein the garbage collector for removing a session object created for the user session, wherein said session object of the user session is not referenced by a remaining object and does which does not reference one or more external resources."

In accordance with the above, therefore, applicants respectfully submit that since Lichtman does not disclose a garbage collector as noted by the Examiner at the bottom of page 4 of the Office Action, Lichtman cannot possibly "detect an impending execution of the automatic memory management algorithm" by the garbage collector as set out in independent claim 1 of the present application. Waldo uses the expression "garbage collector" but the only suggestion to combine it with Lichtman comes from the pending claims. As argued previously by applicants, the actions of Lichtman's assignment element cited in the Office Action are in response to a "deallocate" instruction by a configuration manager. This is not equivalent to "detecting an impending execution of the automatic memory

management algorithm" as set out in the claims. In Lichtman, there does not appear to be any step of detecting an impending execution of another algorithm so that, prior to executing the automatic memory management algorithm by the garbage collector, the resource deallocation module can access, identify, and release one or more obsolete external resource references before the automatic memory management algorithm of the garbage collector removes the session objects created for the user session.

In accordance with the above, therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 as amended above and claims 2-9 and 33-35 dependent therefrom are patentably distinct and unobvious over the references of record.

In addition to the above, applicants have tendered similar amendments to each of independent claims 15, 24, 36, 39 and 40 above wherein the claim language explicitly sets out that the resource deallocation module is responsive to the detecting of an impending execution of an automatic memory management algorithm by a garbage collector and, further, that the releasing of the resources by the resource deallocation module is performed prior to executing the automatic memory management algorithm by the garbage collector.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 15, 24, 36, 39, and 40 and their respective dependent claims are patentably distinct and unobvious over the references of record.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is

invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 09-0460, our Order No. IBM-17571.

Respectfully submitted,

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